

Batty (1)

A REPLY

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to
PREFACE

MR. UNITE'S ADDRESS

The very rapid sale of the first impression of this
 Reply, and the numerous applications which could not
 be accommodated, have induced the author to issue a
 second edition with the requisite additions, for the im-
 formation of those who had only a partial knowledge
 of the circumstances. These additions have been
 arranged in a separate section, and are distinguished
 from the former by the title **BY THOMAS BATTYE.**

THE SECOND EDITION,
 WITH CONSIDERABLE ADDITIONS.

SOLD BY G. BANCES, EXCHANGE-STREET;
 J. THOMSON, AND W. GRAHAM, MARKET-STREET-LANE;
 AND
 T. BODEN, ST. MARY'S-GATE.

Price Four-pence.

PREFACE.

The very rapid sale of the first impression of this Reply, and the numerous applications which could not be accommodated, have induced the author to publish a second edition with the requisite additions, for the information of those who have only a partial knowledge of the circumstances. These additions have necessarily occasioned an increase in the price, which was inadequate to defray the expences of the first impression.



THE ASSOCIATED LEY-PAYERS OF MANCHESTER.

TO THE
Ley-payers of Manchester.

ON the first and second appearance of Mr. Unite's Address, in the public papers, I did not think it deserving of notice from me, and I was unwilling to add to the injurious consequences which might probably attach upon him from that ill-advised publication; but having observed a *third corrected address*, in Mr. Wheeler's last paper, I am induced, on reflection, to think some answer may not be improper. It may be supposed that no man would have the effrontery to subscribe his name to a false publication; and, consequently, those who are unacquainted with the facts, may consider the truth admitted, if it remains unanswered.

Happily there were present at that meeting near fifteen hundred persons, who can form an opinion of what then actually transpired, and can judge of the accuracy of Mr. Unite's address, and my reply. But I wish to premise, that having been from Manchester at least ten months in twelve, for several years past, it was not till lately that I obtained a perusal of the Report of the Associated Ley-payers, wherein I found the paragraph stated in my advertisement, and was not a little surprised that Mr. Unite should let such an imputation of fraud sleep so long unnoticed. This I considered as a tacit acknowledgment of guilt, and as a friend to the public interest, thought it my duty

TO THE ASSOCIATED LEY-PAYERS OF MANCHESTER.

A to

to give him the gentle jog, in the Chester paper, respecting the *Basil Book*, conceiving that the non-production of it could be the only reason for the silence of the Ley-payers' Report upon the subject.

4 { Mr. Unite should make himself acquainted with the facts before he attempts to state them to the public. It was not after a lapse of seventeen days that I avowed myself; for immediately after the appearance of the advertisement, from the borough-reeve and constables, I waited upon the borough-reeve, and personally acknowledged myself to be the author. At the same time I communicated my intention of inserting the first advertisement in *Wheeler's* paper, and the copy which the borough-reeve then perused is now in Mr. *Wheeler's* possession. This avowal, with my offer to come forward agreeable to their request, I conceived sufficient to justify them in calling a town's meeting, without the appearance of my name in the public papers, the circulation of which not being confined to the town and neighbourhood, was the reason I stated to the borough-reeve for not subscribing my name to that advertisement.

Every one must approve of the conduct of the borough-reeve and constables, who, conceiving the charges to be of considerable magnitude, and worthy the most minute investigation, by their first advertisement called upon me to come forward to "substantiate the charges, if true, in order that justice might be done to the public, by the dismissal of Mr. Unite from his office, or otherwise than he might publicly exculpate himself from so foul an accusation." In consequence of which I proposed by my advertisement to come forward agreeable to their request, if they would call another meeting for the purpose of investigating the conduct of the borough-reeve and constables, being desirous that an investigation

gation should take place solely for the sake of public justice, conceiving that nothing less than a general enquiry would satisfy the public mind, or clear the character of Mr. Unite, who could have nothing to fear from an investigation, if he is clothed, as he says, with the *armour of innocence*. The boroughreeve and constables then thought proper to call a meeting *to hear the defence of Mr. Unite* against the accusation.

I appeared at this meeting, so unconnected with any party, that I was not even apprised of the motion for a general investigation till I heard it read from the chair. By the general show of hands in favour of that motion, it appeared to be almost the unanimous wish of the whole meeting, that a *general enquiry* should take place. It also appeared to be the opinion of the meeting, that the charge in the paragraph of the Report of the Associated Ley payers, was not *specific*, but a charge of a general nature, and could not be fully gone through without a general investigation. After this motion was disposed of, I was called upon by the chairman to substantiate my charges.

The first charge that the paragraph mentioned in my advertisement, appeared in the Report of the Associated Ley payers, was proved by the production of that publication, and this paragraph was the chief subject of the debate on the motion for a general investigation. *The existence of this paragraph constituted my charge*, with respect to the truth it contained, the proof rested with the authors, whose names appear at the foot of the Report, or rather with the whole Society of Ley payers, as it appears, from the Preface, to be published by a resolution of the society, signed by the chairman.

The other charge, of the non-delivery of the

3. *Red Basil Book*, according to the duties of his office, I substantiated by proving it to have been delivered to Mr. Unite, just before the decease of his predecessor, and *that it had always been in constant use and regularly carried to the privy sessions; but soon after the death of Mr. Beaumont, IT SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED.* The practice of carrying it in public, along with the other books, was discontinued, and it was never afterwards seen by any church-warden or overseer, till produced by Mr. Hallows at that meeting.

Mr. Hallows, who was the only exculpatory evidence for Mr. Unite, confessed that he had received the book three or four months after he came into office, so that it appeared from Mr. Unite's own evidence, that he had not *duly* delivered it over.

Mr. Hallows stated to the meeting, that he had never shewn it to any of the other officers—*that it had lain on a shelf—over his head—UNTOUCHED!*—ever since that time, though Mr. Hallows had previously informed the Ley-payers, when they applied to him for these records of ILLEGITIMACY, that it was the province of Mr. Edgeley to keep such books, and that he then had them *all* in his custody. But at the public meeting, Mr. Hallows had the effrontery to assert, that the reason of his denying that book to the Ley-payers was, "he had once shewn it to a *gentleman of character and abilities,*" and a considerable Ley-payer, who after attentively perusing it, agreed with him in opinion, that it was not worth FIVE SHILLINGS! Mr. Hallows was then asked for the name of the gentleman who had been at so much pains in examining the book, but he obstinately refused mentioning him till the cry *name! name!* became general from every quarter of the room; when he reluctantly said his friend's name was

was "Leyland." On being further interrogated, if he was then present? he answered, "no." The next question was, "could he be sent for?" he replied, "I cannot tell what is become of him; the last time I heard of him, he lived either at Middlewich, or Northwich;" when a gentleman of respectability declared, that the person he mentioned was a *gold-dy weaver*, and had been dead more than *three years*! The contradictory stories which Mr. Hallows told respecting the book—the shelf—the transfer—of its being in his possession—his denial to the *Ley-payers*—the opinion of the *gold-dy weaver*, added to his prevaricating and insolent behaviour, his equivocal and uncouth answers, invalidated his evidence in toto, and several gentlemen of respectability declared they did not credit one syllable of his testimony. Mr. Hallows was the only evidence for Mr. Unite respecting the book, and it is for those who were present to determine how far it appeared improbable that the witness and the deputy were UNITED.

A view of the discoveries made at the meeting, will shew the great attention of Mr. Unite to the accuracy of his accounts, and the unequivocal manner in which he answered every question, as stated by Messrs. Harrop and Wheeler, in their papers. They justly agree, that "the extracts (*perhaps metallic ones*) taken out of the Red Book, have lessened its importance." They further state that "NO MONIES appear to have been improperly received from that book."—No—where can a single entry be traced of monies received or paid during the period of Mr. Unite's overseership? I stated at this meeting, that I had twenty charges against him for monies received, and he was then called on to produce his cash-book. But I fear I shall only be credited by those who were present at the meeting when I echo his own words, "I NEVER

KEPT

KEPT A CASH-BOOK." What must be the effect of such an answer upon the great body of Lay-payers present?

I then asked him how he had accounted for the vast sums he must pay and receive, as acting overseer, in so very large and populous a town?

Answer. "I did all my BUSINESS on SLIPS of paper."

Question. Having no cash-book, how were the different persons credited, that you had received monies from?

Answer. They always got receipts from the head overseer or church-warden.

Question. What became of those slips of paper?

Answer. I may probably have some of them at home.

Question. Do you recollect receiving 170. in promissory notes from Mrs. Beaumont, which were extracted from the "Red Basil Book," and delivered to you in a pocket book?

Answer. Yes: And I held them in my hand, just as I hold this paper, and took them in that manner to the treasurer, without knowing their contents*.

On being interrogated about the mode of giving receipts, I appeal to those who were present, if he did not positively, and in the most unqualified manner, state that they were always signed by the superior officers, and if he did not afterwards, upon a closer examination, detect himself, by shewing that he had made a common practice of giving these receipts himself. The questions put to Mr. Unite by his unsolicited advocate, were in effect as follow.

Question. Did you account for all the sums of money you received?

Answer. I will now proceed a little farther respecting Mr. Unite recollected afterwards that one of the sums was about 30.

Answer. I did, and very justly; if I was on my oath, I would say the same.

Question. Then you delivered all your monies to the treasurer?

Answer. Yes, as an honest man, I declare I did.

His advocate then exclaimed, "Hear Mr. Unite, gentlemen; he declares he delivered all the monies he got—Mr. Unite tells you so—what would you have the man to do more? His assertions, uncontradicted, are tantamount with truth."

Such were the unequivocal answers, as stated in the Manchester papers, and are such proofs of innocence as a prisoner at a bar of justice would offer before his trial.

Mr. Edgeley was called upon, and asked, if he had ever heard of the Bastardy Book, as described in the advertisement?

Answer. Yes, I have often heard there was such a book, but I never saw it before now.

Question. Ought not this book to have been kept by you, as the bastardy business was your department?

Answer. Yes.

Question. Have not you (on being told by country overseers, that they had paid their monies to Mr. Unite) applied to Mr. Horsfall the then treasurer, to see if such monies had been paid over to him?

Answer. Yes, I have.

Question. And have not you, in some cases, found that such monies were not accounted for?

Answer. Yes, I have, in some cases.

How far Mr. Unite's assertions stand uncontradicted by Mr. Edgeley, or are "tantamount with truth," the public will easily determine.

I will now proceed a little farther respecting the conduct of Mr. Unite, by asking, why he did not

not pursue the practice of Mr. Beaumont, his predecessor, by keeping a *cash-book*—a *visiting book*—and *letter book*, that his transactions might appear fair, open, and intelligible? upon what grounds can he account for the discontinuance of these books?—he cannot justly plead ignorance or inability, who had the capacity to keep A PRIVATE CASH-BOOK with COUNTRY OVERSEERS!!

On account of the length of time which must necessarily have been employed in the further investigation of these charges, it was proposed that a committee should be appointed for the purpose, which was instantly acceded to by the whole assembly, as a measure of the greatest propriety; and a committee were immediately appointed.

The paragraph, in the Report of the Associated Ley-payers, states, "that Mr. UNITE, as overseer in the year 1791, received a considerable sum of money, arising from the sale of a person's effects, which, with OTHER MONIES, do not YET appear to have been accounted for." Does this paragraph, added to mine, respecting the *Red Basil Book*, contain no more than two charges, as asserted by Mr. Unite, and can they be termed *specific*?

He had certainly every reason to expect from this paragraph, that a general investigation would take place, and a sufficient time had elapsed since its publication, to enable him to attempt an exculpation of his conduct.

It was stated at the meeting, that the Associated Ley-payers paid a tenth of the rate for the year 1793, and that, upon a moderate calculation, their property assessed could not be less than 20,000*l.* a year. Surely, so respectable a body of Ley-payers, had a right to demand a satisfactory explanation!

It was natural to expect that Mr. Unite would have come to the meeting, prepared to answer the charges,

charges, with his *books and papers*; especially as far as the paragraph states respecting the goods he sold (belonging to a distressed family, to a considerable amount); *ten months* were surely time enough to prepare his justification respecting OTHER MONIES which he is charged to have received, and never accounted for; though this period has elapsed since the publication of the Report of the Ley-payers, of which many hundred copies are now in circulation, yet he never *challenged, nor courted* an enquiry; his "ARMOUR of INNOCENCE" neither *emboldened* him to make a reply, nor to make restitution to that *unfortunate* family, whose effects, or monies arising therefrom, were then in his possession. And at last, after being *twice* called upon, once by the Ley-payers, and lastly by me in the Chester paper, how reluctantly is he brought forward by the boroughreeve and constables, to answer those charges. All these transactions, with the balance he still owes to the town, since his overseership, might have slept unnoiced (had it not been for my *gentle jog*) till *doomsday*! These are a few of the charges his advocate states to have been privately *HATCHED* against him! Mr. Unite asserts, that "that meeting was convened for a purpose specifically stated by the boroughreeve and constables." In answer to which it may be observed, that this purpose had for its object the investigation of charges of a general nature. Again he asks, "was the public meeting itself competent to decide on my *GENERAL* conduct as *overseer*—upon my *general* conduct as *deputy-constable*—upon the appointment of a committee?"—why not! Mr. Unite having at the same time acted in the double capacity of *deputy-constable*, and *deputy-overseer*, can have no reason to complain of a scrutiny into his conduct, in these official situations. "An honest man is ever prepared

prepared and ready to defend himself." His immediate masters, the boroughreeve and constables, by their first advertisement, prudently called on me to prove my charges, in order that justice might be done to the public, or that Mr. Unite might publicly exculpate himself. Is it decent for Mr. Unite thus to arraign the conduct of the boroughreeve and constables? Is it at their discretion, or his, to determine on these occasions? they were present, and joined their approbation to that of almost every person present in the appointment of the committee? Though they have, most undoubtedly, the particular superintendence of Mr. Unite's conduct, yet, he is the servant of the public, from whom he receives 150l. per year salary, exclusive of ONE HUNDRED and FIFTY POUNDS PER ANN. HOUSE-RENT!

As a public officer, Mr. Unite is responsible to the public, who have certainly a right, whenever they please, to direct an enquiry into his conduct; yet he, in his Address, resists that responsibility, by denying your competency to investigate. After your meeting, which was more numerous and respectable than was ever held upon any former occasion, had decided upon the propriety of a general investigation, and upon the appointment of a committee for that purpose, he indiscreetly puts the following interrogation, "will it be right to submit myself to *that* committee?" Mr. Unite unbecomingly attempts to impeach the candour and impartiality of the whole assembly, by alledging that you have appointed persons who are prejudiced against him. The committee cannot be considered as his judges. It is a committee of investigation, to make a report at your next meeting, when you will yourselves pass a judgment upon Mr. Unite, then which none will, I trust, be more just, fair, or impartial.

The

The first three pages of the Report of the Associated Leavers, will enable you to anticipate the results of a legal investigation.

In page second, the committee, on application to the magistrates, were told by Mr. Bayley that the mode of their application was wrong—their interference improper—and, in his opinion, these accounts were very right, and very proper. Though these were Mrs. Bayley's declarations, it does not appear that these accounts have been before the magistrates for three or four years past, agreeable to act of parliament, nor has any complete settlement taken place since that period.

On By 17 Geo. 2. chap. 28. sec. 1. "The church wardens and overseers of the poor shall yearly, and every year, within fourteen days after other overseers shall be nominated and appointed to succeed them, deliver in to such succeeding overseers, a just, true, and exact account, in writing, fairly entered in a book or books" (not on slips of paper) "to be kept for that purpose, and signed by the said church wardens and overseers hereby directed to account as aforesaid, under their hands, of all sums of money by them received, or rated, and assessed, and not received; and also of all goods, chattels, stocks, and materials that shall be in their hands, or in the hands of any of the poor in order to be wrought; and of all monies paid by such church wardens and overseers so accounting, and of all other things concerning the said office. And shall also pay and deliver over all sums of money, goods, chattels, and other things as shall be in their hands, unto such succeeding overseers of the poor, which said account shall be verified by oath, or by the affirmation of persons called Quakers, before one or more of his Majesty's Justices or the Peace, which said oath or affirmation such Justice or Justice is and are hereby required to administer, and to sign and attest the caption of the same, at the foot of the said account, without fee or reward; and the said book or books shall be carefully preserved by the church wardens and overseers, or one of them, in some public house or houses, in every parish, township, or place, and they shall and are hereby required to permit any person there assessed, or liable to be assessed, to inspect the same at all reasonable times, paying six pence for such

On an enquiry being made concerning several sums of money received by Mr. Unite, which he declared had always been carried to Mr. Horsfall it was desired that Mr. Horsfall's CASH-BOOK might be sent for when Mr. Samuel Gardner, a late officer of the town, observed, that *this BOOK was also lost!* a book in which all *cash* transactions are, or ought to have been entered, amounting to MANY THOUSAND POUNDS!—Yet, there is not a *relick*, or even a *slip of paper* left to inform posterity of the receipts and expenditure of the year 1791.

It is now said, that Mr. Horsfall regularly delivered over the book, as is usual, to Mr. Locke, the succeeding church-warden—and that Mr. Locke delivered it over to—*somebody who called for it*—but who that *somebody* is—I shall leave to *somebody ELSE* to find out—for certain it is—that *somebody* must know something about it. And I am sure—*every body* must see—and *nobody* will DENY—that there is STILL “something rotten in the state of Denmark”!

T. BATTYE,

Manchester, Dec. 11, 1794.

“such inspection; and shall upon demand forthwith give
“copies of the same, or any part thereof, to such person;
“paying at the rate of six-pence for every three hundred
“words, and so in proportion for any greater or less number.”

“A church-warden or overseer not to have a knowledge of this act of parliament, is an unpardonable ignorance, but what must be the breach of it?
AN UNPARDONABLE CRIME.

Postscript
 It may not be improper to lay the following extracts before the public from the Lay-payers Report, with a few remarks thereon, as it has not yet appeared that the errors and inaccuracies have been corrected. The following chapter of *Confession*, will rank with every unprejudiced reader, among other literary curiosities.

It is now said, that Mr. Horsfall regularly delivered over the book, as is usual, to Mr. Locke, the succeeding church-warden—and that Mr. Locke delivered it over to—somebody else called for it—but who that somebody is—I shall leave to somebody else to find out—for get- tain it is—that somebody must know something about it. And I am sure—every body must see—and nobody will deny—that there is still “something rotten in the state of Denmark!”

T. BATTYE.

Manchester, Dec. 11, 1854.

MR. BUCKLEY'S *Political Account from East*
 To the Hon. the Commons of Great Britain in Parliament assembled.
 In answer to a Resolution passed on the 10th of May 1854.
 Printed by W. G. and J. W. Smith, Stationers, Strand.
 1854.
 A church-warden or overseer, not having a knowledge of the contents of the Report, is not responsible for its contents, but he is responsible for its circulation.
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"Dr. Mr. LOCKE's Account from EASTER 1798.

To Cash received from Mr. C. Horsfall, late Overseer.....	185	17	4
To over-drawn Jones and Co.	48	18	6
To Cash from Mr. Wharmby.....	56	10	0
To Ditto for Work done in the Workhouse.....	18	5	1
To Pensions and Board.....	15	4	8
To Ditto received for Bastardy.....	4	1	0
To Ditto for 5 Year's Rent of Alm's House, due 25 March 1798.....	137	10	0
To Ditto from Ogden for Timber.....	0	0	0
To Balance due Mr. Locke.....	152	3	9

£7599 15 6

"Mr. EDGLEY's general Account from EASTER 1792, to EASTER 1798.

To Cash and Bills from Mr. Locke.....	2366	43	11
To Do. from Overseers.....	3	15	6
To Do. for bad Copper.....	6	7	0
To Do. Mr. E. Wharmby.....	1	14	9
By Cash paid weekly for regular Poor.....	2373	12	8
By Do. casual Payments.....	499	33	10
By Do. extraordinary Payments.....	100	0	0
By Apprentices Bonds.....	7	10	0
By Dues.....	16	12	0
By Law Payments.....	118	0	0
By a Year's Salary.....	1000	0	0

£3772 10 10

to EASTER 1793 (arranged by the Committee) Cr

By Cash paid at the Workhouse for Sundries	2275	18	0
Cash paid on Bastardy Accounts	978	13	8
Ditto Orphans	692	17	6
Ditto Constables	1080	1	5
Ditto S. Edgely, for casual and regular Poor, &c. his Salary, Law Charges, &c.	2275	18	0
Ditto Subscription to Infirmary	31	10	0
Ditto Ditto Lying-in Hospital	5	5	0
Ditto Bills for Coffins	67	13	6
Ditto Jones, Barker, and Co. Commission and Interest	95	10	6
Daniels	27	15	5
Ditto Sundries. Loss on Light Gold, Premium on Bills, Rents, &c.	57	5	4
Ditto Mr. Hallows, on Salary Account	85	20	0
Ditto Mr. Wharmby 1 Year's Salary	70	0	0
Ditto "from Mr. Unite, charged in "D. Locke's BALANCE"	17	0	0
	<u>£ 7599</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>6"</u>

There is something curious to observe, that the account of Mr. Edgley's, as per contra, should, by casual and extraordinary payments, make so complete a balance!

"Mr. Wharmby, the collector, does not appear to have settled his books for many years, and they remain now in a very confused state! Mr. Locke gives Mr. Wharmby credit for 561ol. 6s. 10d. and Mr. Wharmby makes Mr. Locke debtor for only 552ol. 4s. 5d. The officers for 1793 have not only expended the 576l. 17s. 4d. received from Mr. Horsfall, but have increased Mess. Jones's debt 485l. 13s. 6d. besides 95l. 10s. 6d. for commission and interest, at a time when there was between THREE AND FOUR THOUSAND POUNDS of the rate of that year uncollected! besides many thousands in arrears of the rates for the years 89, 90, and 91. Mr. Locke makes Mr. Edgley debtor for 2275l. 18s. 7d. which is explained by Mr. Edgley's

Edgley's account, when Mr. Locke has credit for 2366l. 13s. 4½d. It does not appear that Mr. Edgley's other receipts are included in Mr. Locke's account. The disbursements by Mr. Edgley, amounting to 2377l. 19s. 10½d. are cast up in his books 2419l. 6s. 5d. and signed by the church-wardens and overseers, "ADJUSTED AND EXAMINED." Agreeable to Mr. Locke's statement, the labour of the work-house only produced 185l. 8s. 5½d. and there were received for board and pensions 15l. 4s. 8d. whereas, by the governor's cash-book, settled by Mr. Locke himself, monthly, it appears the produce of the labour amounted to 204l. 18s. 9d. and the board and pensions to 18l. 7s. 8d." so that Mr. Locke must have forgot to pass from the governor's book to his own 23l. 12s. 3½d.

"Mr. Edgley's department is the distribution of relief to the regular and casual poor, and the keeping of bastardy and orphans' accounts. It is the only department where there is even the appearance of order."

Mr. Edgley gave the Associated Ley-payers an account of the arrears in bastardy since the year 1791, amounting to one thousand two hundred and nineteen pounds fourteen shillings and one penny, now due to the town. Perhaps the Red Basil Book contains an account of monies owing in bastardy from 1773 to 1787; and many, whose arrears were, at the completion of that book by Mr. Beaumont, small, have since paid monies to a very considerable amount. Mr. Hallows can speak more fully as to the arrears from 1787 to 1791, as Mr. Edgley began with a new set of books. It is reasonable to suppose that there must have been SOME NATURAL PRODUCTIONS IN FOUR YEARS! and that these accounts may yet lie snug somewhere—perhaps they are in company with the whole race of filiation orders—the account of monies received—

received—the account of children bought off after the order of maintenance—with the times of their birth, and when bought off, PREVIOUS to the order— all these invaluable books and papers Mr. Hallows might probably find, if he would search that SHELF where the Red Basil Book lay so long UNTOUCHED!!

Mr. Hallows attends at the New Bailey to hear the complaints of the poor—the cases of bastardy—visits the poor at their own houses, whom he relieves with MONEY and PROVISIONS at DISCRETION!—makes orders upon Mr. Edgley for the relief of CASUAL POOR—and has a power to fill up passes, signed in BLANK by the magistrates.

His power seems to have been unlimited, and there are many now, on opening their eyes, find themselves the dupes of their own credulity! HUSH MONEY! and monies obtained under the awful stories of “pregnant women fathering their children,” are not unfrequent. Mr. Hallows may thank good fortune that he was yesterday ARRESTED for a sum of money he had so illegally received. The lenity shewn him ought to be a sufficient warning to deter him in future, and (before too late) to make restitution to others, who have paid him money on the like occasions. It may not be unseasonable to apprise Mr. Hallows, that the obtaining of money under false pretences, is a crime which is punishable with imprisonment—public whipping—or TRANSPORTATION!!!

The law charges and extraordinary, in the constables accounts, are of a very considerable amount, and abound much with items of the following nature:

1. To expenses, two journeys to Radcliffe, to visit Edward Brown's family.

2. To a journey to Bury, respecting George Isherwood's settlement.

3. To a journey to the Jockey Club and T. Paine's

4. To

To four men for taking, and the soldier in
Newton-lane 0 6 0

To LIQUOR FOR THE SAME 0 5 3

" *New Bailey Court-house, 6th Feb. 1793* 0 1 3

Particulars of two days charges. £ 3 11

Examination of Mar. Hallwell, and removal to
Houghton 0 9 0

Examination of John Huntington, and ditto to
Gokerham 0 9 0

Ditto, of Aaron Hudson, and ditto to Blackwell 0 9 0

Ditto, of Ann Hallau, and removal to Bumity 0 9 0

Mary Drabble's order of bastardy 0 6 0

Two summonses 0 2 0

Mary Colwood's order of bastardy 0 6 0

Examination of Mary Dean, and removal to
Liverpool 0 9 0

Ditto, Ann Hodgson, ditto to Ellam, Lanca-
shire 0 9 0

Twenty summonses 1 0 0

Six passes 0 6 0

Examination of Betty Simpson touching her
settlement 0 5 0

Ditto, Henry Finley, and removal to Bewdley 0 6 0

Ditto, Cat. Matun, ditto to Liverpool 0 9 0

Ditto, Eliz. Robinson, ditto to Rochdale 0 9 0

Ditto Alice Boothman, ditto to Gargrave 0 9 0

Three warrants for neglect of family 0 12 0

Examination and removal of Sarah Williams to
Pendgrast 0 6 0

Ditto, ditto, of Mary Hamlet to Addington 0 9 0

Ditto, ditto, of Isabella Smith, to Durham 0 9 0

Four vagrant passes 0 12 0

One summons 0 0 1

This bill is cast up " 10l. 1s." £ 9 7 0

Since the date of the above bill, the fee upon a removal order has been increased from NINE to FOURTEEN SHILLINGS. There is now paid upon each order five shillings for examination, four for the removal order, and five shillings for moving THE BENCH. For such like removals, &c. the public pay several hundreds yearly; and strange as it may appear, it often happens when the removal or-
der

der is completed and the *fees entered*, these unfortunate women are dragged away and closely confined within the walls of a poor-house.—Thus is affliction added to the afflicted. In this place many are confined for a considerable length of time, at the expence of the town; and, for want of proper attention to the order, are there actually suffered to be brought to bed; and in a recent instance, a woman has been permitted to lie in at her own habitation, notwithstanding the town had been put to the expence of an order for her removal; and, on being threatened, a month after the birth, to be taken away handcuffed, she was permitted to remain for the small bribe of FIVE SHILLINGS!

The accounts of these *immaculate overseers* seem altogether at variance with each other; and I cannot help observing that these *errors*, however *unintentional*, appear to be ALL on the right side, which demonstrate the necessity of a further inspection of these accounts, by other persons than those who keep them—EVEN AFTER they are “*ADJUSTED AND EXAMINED!*”

An attempt to increase the *poors-rate* to 10s. in the pound, implying that the wants of the poor required a fund of more than *eighteen thousand pounds!* excited a *general alarm*, at a time when the uncollected rates and arrears due to the town amounted to TEN THOUSAND POUNDS AND UPWARDS!

Since the year 1790, the *poor-rates* have amounted to *nine thousand pounds* annually, and a permanent debt of 5700l. upon mortgage, and by way of annuity since that period; the interest of which amounts to not less than 489l. yearly, and exclusive of these sums, the *unliquidated debts* of the town are about *five thousand pounds*. But will not the public be astonished to hear that the

debts,

debts, upon the *poor account*, are now increased to upwards of **FOURTEEN THOUSAND POUNDS!**

FRIENDLY HINTS.

As the collector's books are in a very *confused* state, and the present collectors have been in the practice of making considerable deductions to the *dissatisfied*, there is great room for suspicion!*

The number of people who have of late been summoned, and who had previously made due payments, shews the necessity, during the present *confusion*, of taking receipts!

PUBLICANS

are likewise informed, that as *billets* are sold, at **THREE-PENCE** each, the *variety of exchanges* for some time past is easily accounted for. And though *three-pence*, or **SIX-PENCE**, is no object to a recruit who has received a bounty of **TEN POUNDS**, yet the publicans are liable to much imposition, as the *law*, or the *custom* of the town is, that every soldier shall have provisions found him for the *first seven days!* At the end of *that* period, where is there a recruit that would not have A **THREE-PENNY EXCHANGE?** If the *billet-trade* continues *brisk*, this traffic will, upon a moderate computation, make an additional **CIPHER** to his Salary!

December 17, 1794.

It,

* No collector has a power to alter the *Rate-book*, after it is signed by the magistrates. By what authority, then, can they make a demand of a particular sum, and afterwards reduce it more than *one half?*—They must either demand more than is mentioned in the *Rate-book*, or they have a discretionary power very improper to be vested in collectors. Of the various instances which may be enumerated of this sort, I shall only particularise one; where **THREE NOTES** have been left for the *same rate*, each note differing very considerably in amount from the other, in the course of a few days!!

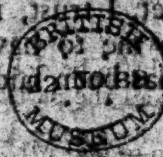
It may not be amiss, by way of conclusion, to caution the Ley-payers against an impression which has been industriously attempted to be made on the public mind—that this subject has been taken up from party or political motives. My interference has proceeded solely from a desire to promote the ends of public and substantial justice. Politics have nothing to do with *local* regulations; and it is absurd to suppose that the *CHURCH* or the *STATE* can be endangered by an enquiry into the conduct of a *deputy* constable, or a *deputy* overseer. Any judgement formed upon the subject, until the result of the present investigation be known, must be premature; yet, I trust, it will not be considered improper in me to have corrected the misstatement which has been laid before the public.



December 17, 1794.

* No collector has a power to alter the Rate-book, after it is signed by the magistrates. By what authority, then, can they make a demand of a particular sum, and afterwards reduce it more than one half?—They must either demand more than is mentioned in the Rate-book, or they have a discretionary power very improper to be vested in collectors. Of the various instances which may be enumerated of this sort, I shall only particularise one; where the rate has been left for the same rate, each note differing very considerably in amount from the other, in the same

It may not be amiss, by way of conclusion to caution the I. O. F. payers against an impression which has been industriously attempted to be made on the public mind—that this subject has been taken up in favor of political motives. My intention once has been to shed as early as possible a pro- found and abiding light on the subject of public and substantial justice. Politics is not something to be worriedly regulated; and it is absurd to suppose that the election of the President can be endangered by an ordinary vote. To conduct a warfare considerable or to have over- thrown judgments formed upon this subject until the result of the present investigation be known, must be premature. I repeat, it will not be consid- ered improper in me to have corrected the mis- statement which I have made before the public.

[illegible]

THOMAS RICHARDSON
JOSEPH THOMAS
WILLIAM HALL